

# What is the Secret to Financial Prosperity?

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

## ➤ Intro:

- **over the years**, it's become popular to talk about financial prosperity in religion
  - seems many are doing so to appeal to greed and lust
  - **sow a seed doctrine: send a preacher \$ and get-rich-quick**
- **this lesson:** Bible teaching, What is the secret to Financial Prosperity?
  - **joke:** Beth, are you sure you're qualified – yes, the way I'm talking about it - I'm broke and I have the right attitude

## ➤ What is being “financially prosperous” for Christians? – being faithful Christian having food and clothing

- **Matt. 6:19-21** Christian paradigm: lay up treasure in heaven
  - **Matt. 6:24** reason that we must view financial prosperity this way – serve God, not wealth
  - **our god is the one we serve – \$, passionate lusts, Satan, Jehovah**
- - **Matt. 6:25, 31-33** financial prosperity, as Christian, is having food and clothing
  - **application / attitude:**
    - **seek first kingdom of heaven** – be happy with what God blesses you with
      - **Why are little kids who are severely disadvantaged, so much happier than most blessed adults?**
    - **financially prospering as Christian = food and clothing, not lots of \$**
      - **rf. joke, so I'm qualified**
    - **attitude / happiness: think - feel - happy** (Gary Steen's class)
      - **if faithful Christians and not feel financially prosperous, wrong thinking**

## ➤ No matter how much God gives us, He wants us to be faithful stewards.

- **steward:** one put in charge of his master's property, children, or whole household
  - we are steward of God's gifts (Ja. 1:17) – \$
- - **we are stewards of God's grace - all the gifts He gives:**
  - **1 Pet. 4:9-10** good stewards of God's grace (all the gifts He gives us) - **therefore be hospitable**
- - **steward: reward and punishment**
  - **Matt. 25:14-30** parable of the talents – **today, all the gifts God gives**
  - **Matt. 25:21** said to faithful slaves
  - **Matt. 25:26-30** said to, and about, the unfaithful slave
- - **judged for our use of God's gifts**
  - **Matt. 25:34-36** difference between faithful stewards and unfaithful stewards - distinguishes saved from lost

## ➤ God's faithful stewards are generous givers! – rf - Matt. 25:31-36

- **1 Cor. 16:2** “On the **first day of every week** each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that **no collections be made when I come.**”
- **2 Cor. 9** 2<sup>nd</sup> epistle, principles of giving
- - **2 Cor. 9:6** principle of sowing and reaping
  - **Gal. 6:7** Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.
- - **2 Cor. 9:7** attitude: purposed, not grudgingly or under compulsion, cheerfully
- - **2 Cor. 9:8-10** God enriches
- - **1 Cor. 9:11a** so we can give liberally
- - **2 Cor. 9:11b-13, 15** result: thanksgiving to God, by receivers
- **illus.:** - **Lk. 21:1-4** poor widow puts two small copper coins into the treasury
  - **Do you think God took care of her and blessed her, or let her starve to death? - today?**

➤ **What's the right attitude toward money (financial prosperity)?**

- **1 Pet. 4:9-10** consider whatever you have a blessing from God – never despise God's blessings
- **1 Tim. 6:7-10, 17-18** attitude toward money
- - **vs. 7** can't take \$ with us (eternity), not important in grand scheme
- - **vs. 8** be content with food and clothing – **happy if I have. . . .**
- - **vs. 9** not want to get rich - **don't care about \$**
  - **want:** to will deliberately, have a purpose, be minded of willing as an affection, to desire
- - **vs. 10** not love money - reason want to get rich (vs. 9) – **apostasy**
- - **vs. 17** fix your hope on God, not \$ - don't trust in \$
- - **vs. 18** share, do good, no matter how much you have, store up treasure in heaven

➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- **secret to financial prosperity: lay up treasure in heaven – seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness, be content with food and clothing**

- **Phil. 4:11-13** learn to be content in whatever state you are, because as a faithful Christian you are financially prospering
- **if we have the right attitude about money, we'll use it as good stewards to God's glory, if we don't. . . .**
- **inv.:** 1<sup>st</sup> step to financial prosperity - be faithful Christian